

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 07958 101532Z

71

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 H-02 MC-02

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /066 W
----- 045711

R 101445Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4865

SECDEF WASHDC//DSAA/ISA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE/ECJ-4/7-SA

DOD FOR DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 7958

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN FY 77 FMS CREDITS AND IMET

REF: A. STATE 156311, DTG 240524Z JUN 76

B. STATE 270572, DTD 031519Z NOV 76

C. CHUSLOT 101425Z NOV 76

1. I AM STILL NOT SATISFIED THAT WE HAVE DONE ALL WE CAN TO RAISE THE FY 77 FMS CREDITS FOR TUNISIA TO \$25M. REFTEL A WAS CONSTRUED HERE TO MEAN THAT STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD ASK FOR AN ANNUAL \$25M FMS CREDIT LINE FOR TUNISIA AND WE SO INFORMED THE TUNISIANS OF OUR BEST EFFORTS IN MEETING THAT GOAL. THE \$10M FY 77 WINDFALL FMS CREDIT WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED. TUNISIA WILL, HOWEVER, STILL REQUIRE AT LEAST A TOTAL OF \$125M FMS CREDITS FOR FY 76-80 TO ASSIST IN THE PURCHASE OF THE CHAPARRAL VULCAN BN, TOW MISSILE ANTI-TANK SYSTEM, HELICOPTERS, ARTILLERY, AND COASTAL PATROL AND INTERDICTION CRAFT WHICH THEY NEED FOR THEIR MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. OUR PROJECTED COSTS FOR THE CHAPARRAL-VULCAN BN (2 BTY CHAPARRAL AND 2 BTY VULCAN) PLUS TRAINING, DEPOT MAINTENANCE, RADAR, AND RANGE FIRING TARGETS COULD EXCEED \$92M. THIS PRICE WOULD LEAVE VERY LITTLE CREDIT FOR THE TUNISIANS TO UTILIZE ON THEIR OTHER U.S.

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 07958 101532Z

PURCHASED REQUIREMENTS. I WOULD PERSONALLY APPRECIATE THE GOOD

EFFORTS OF STATE AND DOD TO PROVIDE TUNISIA WITH \$25M FMS CREDITS FOR FY 77.

2. ADDITIONALLY, I AM CONCERNED WITH THE REDUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING (IMET) APPROPRIATIONS TO TUNISIA FOR FY 77 AS OUTLINED IN REFTEL B.

3. OUR INITIAL PLANNING FIGURE OF \$400,000 FOR FY 77 IMET HAS BEEN REDUCED INCREMENTALLY TO A NEW LOW OF \$375,000. A \$375,000 IMET PROGRAM FOR TUNISIA SEEMS INORDINATELY SMALL WHEN COMPARED WITH THE IMET AND GRANT AID MATERIEL PROGRAMS STILL BEING OFFERED TO OTHER COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD LISTED IN YOUR REFTEL B. I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT EXPRESS MY CONSTERNATION WHEN I CONSIDER WHAT THAT \$25,000 IMET REDUCTION COULD BUY FOR THE UNITED STATES IN TERMS OF FRIENDSHIP, UNDERSTANDING AND INFLUENCE IN IMPORTANT AREA OF THE MEDITERRANEAN LITTORAL.

4. I FULLY SUPPORT CHUSLOT'S MSG REFTEL C, AND REQUEST THAT WE MAINTAIN THE TN IMET PROGRAM AT THE \$388,000 OCT 76 FIGURE. I FURTHER REQUEST YOUR ASSISTANCE FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$30,000 TO BE ALLOCATED FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM ASSISTANCE HERE IN TUNISIA THRU AT LEAST JUN 77, FOR A TOTAL OF \$418,000.

5. IMET ASSISTANCE WAS ONE OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED BY TN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE BENNOUR WITH DEPSECDEP CLEMENTS AND HIS PARTY FROM DOD DURING THEIR VISIT HERE LAST MONTH.
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